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REMARKS

Claims 22-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Foster. The Examiner states that the inclusion of a sandwich layer (26), a reaction products layer (34) and a metal oxide layer (36) are all different embodiments and can be optionally added to Foster. The Examiner states that the invention disclosed by Foster, without the additional layers, read on the current claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is not anticipated by Foster. In Foster, a layer of chrome 20 is located between the nickel layers 14 and 16 and the overlying layers. The claimed invention recites that the layer of refractory metal directly contacts the layer of nickel. In Foster, it is not possible for the overlying layers to contact the nickel layers 14 and 16 because of the presence of the chrome layer 20 in all the embodiments. Therefore, Foster does not disclose the claimed invention. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

Additionally, the Examiner states that claim 1 does not recite any additional layers (such as the sandwich layer 26, the reaction produce layer 34, and the metal oxide layer 36), and therefore claim 1 of Foster discloses the claimed invention. Claim 1 does not recite the features of the claimed invention. Although claim 1 recites that at least one layer of refractory metal and refractory metal compound is applied on a layer of electroplated metal, claim 1 does not recite or disclose that the layer of refractory metal directly contacts the layer of nickel or that the layer of refractory metal compound is uncoated as claimed. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 39 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foster in view of Fink. Claims 39 and 43 depend on patentable independent claims 22 and 32, respectively, and are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Adding Fink to Foster still does not render Applicant's claims obvious because neither reference teaches a layer of refractory metal that directly contacts a nickel layer as claimed. Therefore, the combination of these references does not teach, suggest or disclose the claimed invention. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 22-53 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees

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or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: December 20, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306 on December 20, 2004.



Karin Butchko